

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1031

By Patton

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the men's basketball team of East Tennessee State University on their outstanding 2003-04 season.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful athletes and teams who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the members of the men's basketball team of East Tennessee State University are deserving of our admiration and praise; during their remarkable 2003-04 season, they enjoyed an outstanding campaign and earned the Southern Conference championship; and

WHEREAS, the Buccaneers surpassed all expectations except their own in compiling an overall record of 27-5, with a 15-1 record in the Southern Conference; and

WHEREAS, ETSU built upon their success in the regular season by winning the Southern Conference Tournament for the second consecutive year and for the sixth time in program history; and

WHEREAS, the team continued the program's tradition of dominance by claiming the school's seventh berth in the prestigious NCAA Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Buccaneers achieved unparalleled success through hard work and tremendous dedication that allowed them to utilize their vast individual talents; they worked together as a team to attain their common goals, and that teamwork presented an opportunity for their individual talents to shine; and

WHEREAS, Seniors Zakee Wadood and Jerald Fields along with Sophomore Tim Smith earned recognition as All-Southern Conference; Wadood was additionally named Southern

Conference Most Valuable Player, and Smith was selected as Tournament Most Valuable Player; and

WHEREAS, the most impressive honor won by any ETSU basketball player was the title of Southern Conference Champions; the men who earned that honor were Seniors Jerald Fields and Zakee Wadood; Juniors James Anthony, Sam Oatman, and Michael Tolliver; Sophomores Brad Nuckles, Ben Rhoda, and Tim Smith; and Freshmen Howard Bridgers, A.J. Jackson, Aaron Scott, and Travis Strong; and

WHEREAS, these talented athletes achieved the utmost success under the astute leadership of their coaches, who laid the foundation by sharing their great love and knowledge of basketball with the players; the Eagles were guided by first-year Head Coach Murry Bartow, Southern Conference Coach of the Year, and Assistant Coaches Will Bailey, Mike Boyd, and Scott Wagers; and

WHEREAS, President Paul E. Stanton, Director of Athletics Dave E. Mullins, Administrative Assistant Susan Plasschaert, and the University's students, faculty, staff, alumni, and fans greatly contributed to the team's success by providing their fullest support to the basketball program; and

WHEREAS, the basketball players of East Tennessee State University epitomize all that is good in the ideal NCAA student-athlete; they have achieved notable success on the basketball court while displaying the utmost character both inside and outside of the gymnasium; and

WHEREAS, the stalwart dedication, strong work ethic, and many talents displayed by these student-athletes have not only precipitated a championship season but also surely bode well for their future success; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the ETSU Buccaneers for their success on the court and for serving as excellent examples of the tremendous quality of the young men of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRENCE, that we congratulate the Buccaneers of East Tennessee State University on their championship basketball season, join with the school's administration, faculty, staff, students, and fans in celebrating their tremendous success, and wish them every continued success, both on and off the basketball court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.